

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANILA 01897 071021Z

ACTION EA-09

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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5753

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

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CINCPACREPPHIL

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: MARR, MPOL, RP

SUBJECT: MARCOS COMMENTS ON NATIONAL DEFENSE AND BASES

1. SPEAKING BEFORE THE ALUMNI OF THE COMMAND AND GENERAL STAFF COLLEGE OF THE AFP ON FEBRUARY 5, MARCOS SAID THAT HE HAS ASKED THE MILITARY COUNCIL TO UNDERTAKE A STUDY OF THE "NEW STRATEGIC AND TACTICAL CONCEPTS THAT INVOLVE THE MILITARY BASES OF THE PHILIPPINES". THE MILITARY COUNCIL IS COMPOSED OF MARCOS AS CHAIRMAN, SECRETARY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE ENRILE, AFP CHIEF OF STAFF ESPINO, THE SERVICE CHIEFS AND A NUMBER OF OTHER SENIOR AFP OFFICERS. MARCOS SAID THAT THE STUDY IS TO DETERMINE THE EXACT THREATS FACING THE COUNTRY, WHETHER THESE BE A NUCLEAR OR A CONVENTIONAL WAR. MARCOS SAID THAT HE WANTS TO KNOW WHAT DEFENSES ARE AVAILABLE TO THE COUNTRY AND WHAT INFORMATION ABOUT THESE DEFENSE CAN BE CONVEYED TO THE PEOPOL. MARCOS WARNED AGAINST "THE PERIL FACING ANY NATION THAT PERSISTS IN MAKING ITS OWN DEFENSE AND SECURITY THE RESPONSIBILITY OF ANOTHER COUNTRY."

2. MARCOS RECOUNTED THAT IN 1969, THE POLICY-MAKERS AND THE

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PAGE 02 MANILA 01897 071021Z

MILITARY SAW THE COUNTRY'S SECURITY AS INEXTRICABLY LINED "TO THE AWESOME MILITARY PRESENCE WHOSE POWER AND ENDURANCE WAS BEING TESTED IN VIETNAM AND THAT STATE OF MIND, AS OF TODAY, IS PASSED." "TODAY, IT IS NO LONGER POSSIBLE FOR US TO REFLECT IN THOSE EASY TERMS; OR AT LEAST, IT IS NO LONGER POSSIBLE FOR US TO ASSUME THAT THE STRENGTH OF OTHERS WILL BE READILY EXPENDED IN OUR

FAVOR TO PROTECT OUR INTEGRITY OR ENSURE OUR SURVIVAL AS A PEOPLE AND AS A NATION WHEN THE CRUNCH COMES." MARCOS SAID THAT FOREMOST AMONG THE LESSONS LEARNED IN THE LAST DECADE WAS THAT "TREATIES AND ALLIANCES HAVE FAILED NOT IN TIME OF PEACE, BUT IN TIMES OF WAR, NOT WHEN INTENTIONS ARE BEING DEFINED AND WHEN WE ARE WRITING THE TREATIES BUT WHEN THE INTENTIONS NEED TO BE TRANSLATED INTO ACTION." HE WENT ON TO EXPLAIN THAT INTENTIONS "FAIL MISERABLY IN CASES WHERE IT IS SHOWN THAT THE PSYCHOLOGICAL BUTTRESS USUALLY PRESENT IN ANY ALLIANCE HAS NOT BEEN USED BEFORE THE ONSET OF CRISIS TO DEVELOP ON THE PART OF THE WEAKER ALLY, A REAL SPIRIT AND THE CONDITIONS OF SELF-RELIANCE."

3. MARCOS CHALLENGED THE COMMAND AND GENERAL STAFF ALUMNI, OTHER MILITARY SCHOLARS AND THE BROADER ACADEMIC COMMUNITY TO UNDERTAKE A STUDY IN DEPTH OF THE THREATS THAT COULD ENDANGER THE NATIONAL SECURITY IN THE "CRITICAL YEARS" AHEAD. IN THIS REGARD, HE CALLED FOR "INNOVATION" POINTING OUT THAT INNOVATIVE PROCEDURES HAVE RESULTED IN GAINS NOT ONLY IN FOREIGN POLICY, BUT ALSO IN LAND REFORM, INFRASTRUCTURE AND IN MILITARY TACTICS AND STRATEGY.

4. COMMENT. MARCOS' COMMENTS WERE GIVEN PROMINENT PLAY IN MANILA DAILIES, PROVIDING ANOTHER PUBLIC REMINDER THAT THE GOP CONTINUES TO REVIEW ITS OPTIONS, TOO.
SULLIVAN

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Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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